

**NORTH DAKOTA INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 4, 2014**

*Approved with corrections on 1.15.15*

**PRESENT**

Amanda Lausch	Jennifer Barry
Bobbi Jo Church	Sen. Nicole Poolman
Carol Brakel	David Zimmerman
Mary McCarvel-O'Connor	Tamara Lelm
Tonya Canerot	Tina Bay
Jolyn Wasem	Jacki Harasym
Cassie Keller	Holly Major
Jill Staudinger	Moe Schroeder

**Guest:**

NaTasha Sawicki, State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Magan Paulson, Pathfinder Parent Center  
Valerie Bakken, Department of Public Instruction, Special Education

**Staff:**

Amanda Carlson, Part C Coordinator  
Roxane Romanick, State Family Liaison  
Colette Perkins, Administrative Support

**TOPIC: INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made.

**TOPIC: FAMILY STORY**

Roxane showed a video with Rep. Kevin Cramer giving a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives this past week regarding the passage of the Achieving Better Lifestyle for Everyone (ABLE) Act. Stories from families who have had children in Early Intervention were shared during the speech. The ABLE Act will essentially allow individuals with disabilities to set aside funds that can be used for specific purposes (as outlined by the law) and won't be counted against the asset test for their public benefits such as SSI/Medicaid. The bill passed in the House of Representatives and is expected to be acted on by the Senate within the next week.

**TOPIC: MINUTES REVIEW FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2014**

A motion was made by Sen. Nicole Poolman and seconded by David Zimmerman to approve the September 2014 minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

**TOPIC: MEMBER UPDATES**

- It was announced that Family Voices has an After Hours Learning Call on Writing Functional Outcomes for Individual Family Service Plans scheduled.

**TOPIC: NDICC EVALUATION**

Five responses were received. It was decided to table this discussion until the January meeting. Roxane will send the link out and members were asked to complete the survey.

**TOPIC: STANDING NDICC AGENDA ITEMS**

Part C Budget Report

Amanda displayed the budget.

The report on the use of Part C funding was current as of 8.31. The state started spending FFY 13 funding in July, 2014. This is approximately 2 ½ months earlier than they started spending FFY '12. The state has received the FFY '14 funding. The state has spent \$122,268 in the last 2 months for direct services. The question was asked how long it took to spend the FFY '12 funding and the answer was 10 months.

Amanda noted that the state will need to focus on how to best utilize the Part C dollars to maximize them. To clarify, she noted that the discretionary grant dollars are based on population and we continue to get the minimum allotment even with the increase in our population

It was noted that families in Cass County are having a difficult time with Medicaid eligibility and have been receiving denial letters even if they are going to be screened into the HCBS ID/DD waiver. There has been conversation with Southeast Human Service Center and Deb Masad (State Medical Services staff) on working through these cases. Amanda said they have talked about this at the state level and there is nothing else that the state office can do as it is up to the county and the training of their staff. Amanda noted that she has been connecting families with Deb Masad and some families are having the difficulty in accessed waived services resolved. It was noted that these difficulties increase the chance that families will opt out of using Medicaid. This problem is also for families that are beyond Early Intervention and are on the waiver.

There is a request to look at the cost per child who's services are being paid for through Part C (do not include the first partial month amount).

There is a suggestion to develop a chart about where the funding is coming from to pay for ND Early Intervention services for families so that families can see that they help to maximize the federal dollar when they apply for Medicaid. Again there were comments wanting assurance that families weren't being pressure one way or another.

It was noted that as a parent you don't receive any assistance in filling out the needed paperwork and that this is critical because it's complicated. There was another comment that their DD Program Manager was helpful in assisting the family fill out the needed paperwork. Amanda requested that any ideas to revamp the current talking points, or add in other visuals to share with parents be sent to her.

There are currently 42 children who have chosen to not apply for Medicaid and part c funded only.

Decision to work up a visual description of EI funding and have the Executive Committee review it and then at the June meeting present to the full Council for review. Continue to work with DDPMs and DDRPAs on this issue – this was our approach with the talking points a few years ago.

The issue was raised also that there were some children that were enrolled in Medicaid Expansion instead of State Plan Medicaid in the state and this caused billing issues. Clarification needed on this issue.

#### NDICC Membership Update

Roxane updated the Council on the membership status:

- Head Start position – Roxane has been in conversation with Roxanne Wells at Little Hoop Community College at Ft. Totten Indian Reservation. Roxanne has been checking with her administration.
- Mental health – Cephas Chigwada has been hired in the Mental Health position and Roxane is working with him to get him appointed.
- Region I parent – Roxane spoke with 3 parents in Region 1 regarding the position. Two of the parents have declined the opportunity and the third is continuing to consider the position. The position can be considered open statewide as of 12.1.14.
- Region 7 parent - Shawnda Ereth will be resigning due to increased family and professional responsibilities.
- Provider Position – At the last meeting, it was decided that we would seek a replacement for Dr. McDonough. Tammy, Carol, and Roxane met and worked out some direction around looking for someone who could address the needs of our American Indian community as well as possibly addressing behavioral health needs. The 2 names that were generated were Dr. Tami Dacoteau, who is a licensed psychologist with American Indian heritage and professional experience and Dr. Donald Warne, who is the head of the Masters in Public Health program at NDSU, who has extensive personal and professional wisdom in work with the American Indian community. Dr. Dacoteau has declined the opportunity due to the demands of her practice and we are waiting to hear from Dr. Warne.

Roxane reported that the Governor's office has been great to work with.

#### DD Slots Report

Amanda reported that the state is officially out of waiver slots on Mon, Dec 2.

There are 190 reserved slots, which 135 are for early intervention; 50 slots for emergency; 5 for extended services. It was February, 2013 when the state ran out of waiver slots. The state has requested an amendment to CMS to increase our slot capacity. The Department had to decide if we had the funding to increase our capacity. The federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) views increasing slot capacity as a non-significant change but because of new CMS rules that came out in state submitted a waiver amendment to CMS last Wednesday which they have 90 days or longer to review.

Committee Reports

Roxane reported that the only meeting that was held was on membership replacement and was reported on during the Membership update.

General Supervision Work Plan

Amanda reported that Program Levels of Determination were issued to our local programs in October. The program determinations for FFY '12:

Meets Requirements

Badlands Human Service Center/ KIDS; HIT, Inc.

South Central Human Service Center/Anne Carlsen Early Intervention

Southeast Human Service Center/Early Intervention Partners

Needs Assistance

Lake Region Human Service Center/Anne Carlsen Early Intervention

Northeast Human Service Center/Anne Carlsen Early Intervention

West Central Human Service Center/BECEP

West Central Human Service Center/Standing Rock Early Childhood

Needs Intervention

North Central Human Service Center/Minot Infant Development Program/Minot State University

Northwest Human Service Center/Opportunity Foundation, Inc.

Southeast Human Service Center/Anne Carlsen Early Intervention

Our federal determination moved the state from "Needs Intervention" to "Needs Assistance"

Autism Task Force Update

Next meeting is Dec 10.

**TOPIC: OLD BUSINESS**

Follow-up Elections/Executive Committee Composition

Roxane reported that Jody Haug declined as Vice Chair and Shannon Grave is filling the Vice Chair position.

The 2015 Executive Committee has been put into place: Jill Staudinger, Shannon Grave, Mary McCarvel O'Conner, Cassie Keller, and Carol Brakel.

Update on Bureau of Indian Education agreements/work

A joint training for Part C, Part B, and BIE professionals was held earlier this fall. There has been no formal report back on any regional Memorandum of ~~Agreements~~ ~~Agreements~~ Understanding (MOUOA's) that have been established. Mary reported that the Department of Public Instruction was still interested in issuing guidelines for the regions and to continue to promote collaboration.

Jill reported that the entities that are involved with Ft. Berthold have met twice in New Town. This included 3 different special education units and 4 different Human Service Centers. They have completed 12 MOAs-MOU for birth to age 3 with all Human Service Center which included the Developmental Disabilities Regional Program Administrators' and Infant Development coordinators'

contact information. Wendy Thomas from Souris Valley Special Education is using the same format to develop a draft for 3 to 5 year olds. There is another meeting for this area of the state in January.

Mary reported that DPI will be putting out some guidelines to assist in understanding how children of different ages should be handled within a given system/area.

Roxane noted that Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota currently has a federal grant (Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems) through Maternal Child Health to address what is happening with developmental screening on reservations regarding screenings, referrals, and follow-up.

It was suggested to leave on as an “old business” topic.

Update on ND American Academy of Pediatrics Presentation

Tammy and Roxane attended fall meeting of North Dakota chapter of AAP and very slight participation of doctors. The clinical report was shared with the members attending as well as some suggestions for ongoing collaboration. The members that were there, including Dr. Kathy Anderson, have a particular interest in the coordination with the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant on developmental screenings. Comments from the Council:

- Wait and see what happens with the ongoing recommendations of the ECCS grant
- Concern about increased numbers in the regional programs due to the action of the ECCS grant
- Jennifer Barry noted that the Child Care Block Grant’s reauthorization has a fair amount of reference to developmental screening in the new law.
- Coordination across the state is highly needed.
- Concern that eligibility workers don’t know what they need to know about Early Intervention and developmental screenings.

Regional Program Level of Determinations

Discussed above.

**TOPIC: NEW BUSINESS**

Review of Federal Reporting Table 3

ND needs to report on children exiting North Dakota’s Part C program to the federal Office of Special Education. This was due on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Amanda displayed and Roxane walked through the report which included years 2011-12 to 2013-14. There has been an increase in the number of children where families choose to withdraw from service. The state went from 38 children exiting because of early withdrawal by families in 2011-12 to 131 children exiting because of early withdrawal in 2013-14. Table 4 was also filed in November and this reports the number of formal complaints and/or hearings that occurred. ND had no formal complaints or formal hearings in the reporting period.

There was discussion about clarification on where children whose families opt-out of services fall on the Exit Table (3).

FFY 12 Annual Performance Report

## NDICC MINUTES DECEMBER, 2014

Amanda reminded the Council that the meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> and APR data will be presented at that meeting. Roxane noted that ND must set new targets for the next 6 years in the result indicators of the APR. These include Indicator 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Three year trend data both in performance and previous targets was provided to the Council in order to give context in discussing the targets. Based on this data and discussion about state implications/issues, the following targets were set:

Indicator	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
2 - Natural Environments	99.3	99.3	99.3	99.3	99.3	99.7
3A - SS1 Social Emotional	37.7	37.8	37.9	38	39.1	39.2
3A - SS2 Social Emotional	44.7	44.8	44.9	45	45.1	46.1
3B - SS1 Skill Acquisition	61.1	61.2	61.3	61.4	61.5	62.5
3B - SS2 Skill Acquisition	46.2	46.3	46.4	46.5	46.6	47.6
3C - SS1 Appropriate Behavior	67.4	67.5	67.6	67.7	67.8	68.8
3C - SS2 Appropriate Behavior	67.9	68	68.1	68.2	68.3	69.3
4A - Know Rights	87.4	87.5	87.6	87.7	87.8	88.2
4B - Meet Needs	93	93.1	93.2	93.3	93.4	94
4C - Help Child	91.6	91.7	91.8	91.9	92	92.6
5 - Under 1	2	2	2	2	2.1	2.2
6 - Under 3	3.43	3.43	3.43	3.43	3.43	3.46

### State Systemic Improvement Plan Input

Amanda informed the Council that the state is currently prioritizing the work needed to complete the Annual Performance Report and more information will be available in upcoming meetings. SSIP is due in April while the rest of the APR is due February 1.

### Communication on Upcoming Legislation

Jennifer Barry reported that funding for the continuation of the Inclusion Support program was maintained in the governor's budget at \$350,000 for inclusion specialists and \$400,000 for grants for childcare providers.

Tammy Lelm (Gallup-Millner) reported working with Sen. Hecklman – requested bill language to clean up HB 1038 and focusing on autism data base piece. Concerning parts – reporter piece do physical exams may not do other testing and we wouldn't get quality reporting. Pediatricians didn't feel comfortable with intellectual and psychologist on the physical exam piece. Technical Assistance we received from New Jersey wanted that broaden to be successful.

Interest and work done on newborn screening law and intentional clean up language. Health Dept. is seeking a sponsor but did clean up language and get family perspective. Tammy has draft and bill will likely be forthcoming.

OAR –

Environmental health and oil impact issues are ones that got included.  
Maintenance of immunization rates of children in North Dakota.

Infectious disease money – because of Ebola.  
Money for suicide prevention and domestic violence.

Tina stated that the Governor talked about Autism OAR to increase voucher slots by 20 and increase the waiver slots but don't have specific details as to what was supported.  
DD providers request for 4% for each year and that was included in the Governor's budget.

**TOPIC: NEXT MEETING**

January 15, 2015; from 10am to 5pm, via in-person and statewide video conferencing. The agenda will be the Annual Performance Review.